

income tax checkoff system for a program that we already fund out of general funds, for a program that is well within our purview to fund from general funds. There are some very special programs that the Legislature probably cannot directly fund that warrant the use of the income tax checkoff system and I want you to ask yourself right now as you are doing your United States income tax returns, of what use is the income tax checkoff system made in United States returns? One purpose and one purpose only and that is to fund presidential elections and the reason why is because nationally our government has concluded that it is best to use voluntary dollars to fund political contests than public dollars to fund political contests and for that reason we use the income tax refund on the national scale for one purpose and one purpose only and that is a voluntary contribution to political contests. Now I happen to...as a member of the Revenue Committee, in the last six years our committee has heard about a half a dozen bills to establish an income tax checkoff program for one good cause or another. One of the good causes incidentally was to fund the United States team in the Olympics. We heard that bill. One good cause was to fund art. We heard that bill. Now this particular bill was not heard by the Revenue Committee but rather by the Constitutional Revision and Recreation Committee. It was there, that was the bill that they happened to hear and that is one reason why it is on the floor because I suspect had it gone before the Revenue Committee the Revenue Committee would have continued its basic policy of not permitting an income tax checkoff bill for those programs that the State of Nebraska can fund and does fund out of general dollars. I think that our attitude has always been to reserve the income tax checkoff only for those activities that are very limited in nature wherein it probably is not appropriate for there to be direct payment of governmental dollars or direct public assistance to provide the funding for the adventure. On the other hand we recognize the particular venture as so significant that it needs to have the support of the income tax checkoff system to make certain that it is voluntarily funded and widespread supported. I think 466, while the program is a worthwhile program, it is better for the endangered game and species program to compete with other general fund dollars than to